Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for inhibiting activity of a T lymphocyte against a target cell, which method comprises contacting the target cell with a soluble form of a human CD8 ~~αα or~~ αβ molecule which is folded as a dimer and has the property of inhibiting the action of cytotoxic T cell lymphocytes to kill target cells, wherein at least one α chain of said molecule (a) has SEQ ID NO: 23 or (b) differs from SEQ ID NO: 23 in one or more of the following respects:

(i) methionine is absent at the N-terminus;

(ii) 1-15 amino acid residues are absent from the N-terminus;

(iii) part or all of SEQ ID NO: 27 is added at the N-terminus;

(iv) 1-15 amino acids are absent from the C-terminus; but with at least a part of the region defined by amino acid residues 116-120 retained;

(v) part or all of SEQ ID NO: 28 is added at the C-terminus;

(vi) a conservative variant of at least one amino acid residue which does not materially affect the CD8 functionality of the protein;

(vii) at least one mutation which does alter the CD8 functionality,

(viii) the addition of a protein or peptide, at the N or C terminus, for the purpose of purification;

(ix) the provision of a label for detection.

2-4. (Canceled).

5. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the soluble CD8 is provided as a multimer of two or more CD8 ~~αα or~~ αβ molecules.

6. (Withdrawn) A composition comprising a soluble form of a CD8 molecule together with a pharmaceutically acceptable diluent, excipient or carrier.

7. (Withdrawn) The composition according to claim 6, for immunosuppressive therapy.

8. (Withdrawn) A muitimer of soluble CD8, comprising two or more CD8 molecules attached to one another via a linker molecule.

9. (Withdrawn) A protein having the sequence as shown in figure lb, said protein folded as a dimer and having the property of inhibiting the action of cytotoxic T cell lymphocytes to kill target cells.

10. (Withdrawn) A protein which differs from that shown in figure lb in one or more of the following respects: methionine present at the N-terminus; one or a few amino acid residues absent from the N-terminus; one or a few amino acid residues added at the N-terminus consisting of part or all of the sequence leu-leu-leu-his-ala-ala-arg-pro-; one or a few amino acid residues absent from the C-terminus; but with at least a part of the region defined by amino acid residues 116-120 retained; one or a few amino acid residues added at the C-terminus consisting of part or all of the sequence - ala-pro-arg-pro-pro-thr-pro-ala; part or all of the CD8 cytoplasmic membrane peptide sequence added at the C-terminus; conservative variants of one or many amino acid residues which do not materially affect the CD8 functionality of the protein; mutations which do alter the CD8 functionality, including those which increase or abolish the property of inhibiting the action of cytotoxic T cell lymphocytes to kill target cells; the addition of a protein or peptide, at the N or C terminus for the purposes of purification; the provision of a label for detection; said protein folded as a dirner and having the property of affecting the action of cytotoxic T cell lymphocytes to kill target cells.

11. (Withdrawn) A protein according to claim 10, which is a soluble CD8 molecule containing a substantial part of the extraceilular region of CD8, including the immunoglobulin domain and a fragment of the membraneproximal stalk region, which CD8 molecule is not disulphide-linked between the two chains of the molecule.

12. (Withdrawn) A protein according to claim 10, in which E replaces N at position 100.

13. (Withdrawn) A protein according to claim 10, in which EE replaces QN at

position 55, 56.

14. (Withdrawn) A complex of a protein according to claim 9 with HLA-A2.

15. (Withdrawn) A complex as claimed in claim 14 in crystalline form with a stoichiometry of one protein dimer to one HLA-A2 peptide unit.

16. (Withdrawn) A method of producing the recombinant protein, which method comprises the steps of: i) providing a CD8 derived gene which codes for a protein according to claim 9 or 10, in a bacterium; ii) effecting expression of said CD8 derived gene in said bacterium and recovering of the expressed protein from a bacterial culture; iii) treating the expressed protein to facilitate its purification and carrying out said purification.

17. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 16, wherein the CD8 derived gene provided at step i) is modified via silent mutations designed to increase expression via the prevention of the formation of a 5' hairpin secondary structure in the expressed mRNA.

18. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 16 wherein at step iii) the treatment of the expressed protein involves solubilising the protein and treating the protein so as to cause it to fold into a form resembling its native state, which is then purified.

19. (Withdrawn) The method of any one of claim 16, wherein the CD8 derived gene product corresponds to the immunoglobulin-like and membrane-proximal stalk regions of a CD8 protein

20. (Withdrawn) A complex of a protein according to claim 10.

21. (Withdrawn) A complex of a protein according to claim 10.

22. (Withdrawn) A complex of a protein according to claim 10.

23.(Withdrawn) A complex of a protein according to claim 10.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one mutation which does alter the CD8 functionality is at least one mutation which increases the property of inhibiting the action of cytotoxic T cell lymphocytes to kill at least one target cell.

25. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the soluble CD8 is a CD8 αα molecule.

26. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the soluble CD8 is a CD8 αβ molecule.

27. (New) The method of claim 5, wherein the soluble CD8 is provided as a multimer of two or more CD8 αα molecules.

28. (New) The method of claim 5, wherein the soluble CD8 is provided as a multimer of two or more CD8 αβ molecules.